

2018 - 41.2.2.L

COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT
INFORMATIONAL MEMO



TO: SGT. ROBERT DOCHLER; D.C. JILL SCHLUDE; CHIEF GEOFF JONES

CC: SGT. SCOTT ALPERS

FROM: SGT. CLINTON SINCLAIR 

REF: 2018 PURSUIT OF MOTOR VEHICLES ANNUAL ANALYSIS

DATE: May 1, 2019

The following report was completed for compliance with the CALEA standards regarding Pursuits of Motor Vehicles (41.2.2). The CALEA standard is as follows:

- A written directive governs pursuit of motor vehicles, to include:
- (Subsections A through K are addressed by Columbia Police Department Policy 314, Vehicle Pursuits.)
 - Subsection L - conducting a documented annual analysis of pursuit reports, to include a review of policy and reporting procedures, approved by the agency CEO.

This report will include a review of the Columbia Police Department's vehicle pursuit reporting procedures as well as the 13 vehicle pursuits that occurred in 2018.

Reporting:

Columbia Police Department Policy 314.9, Vehicle Pursuits, outlines the reporting requirements for members of the department after engaging in a vehicle pursuit. Vehicle pursuits are documented via Blue Team software. After documentation is entered, vehicle pursuits undergo a three-level review. The department member's first-line supervisor, a Watch Commander, and a Bureau Commander will conduct a preliminary review of the pursuit and determine if the pursuit was "proper" or "improper" under policy. The Bureau Commander will determine if the facts surrounding the incident warrant further investigation. If the Bureau Commander requests an investigation, the incident is forwarded to the Internal Affairs Unit. If other violations of policy outside of 314 are discovered, they are included in the investigation.

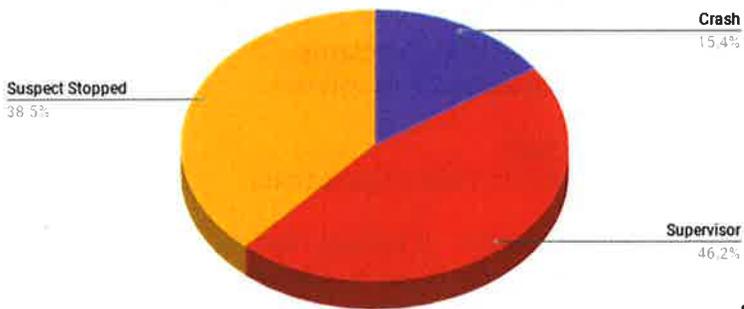
If a pursuit is deemed proper in the preliminary review, no further action is taken on the incident. Generally, vehicle pursuits are reviewed independently of other aspects of an event such as use of force or citizen complaints. There is no reporting mechanism in place for involvement in the pursuits of other jurisdictions.

2018 Vehicle Pursuits Summary:

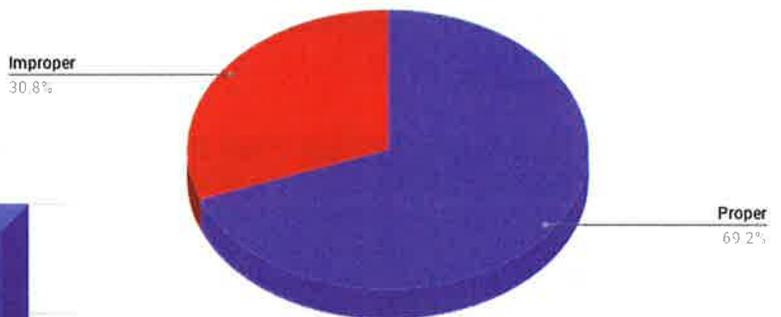
Number	Date	Time	Duration	Reason	Termination Source	Findings
18-0001	01/01/18	0149	1 minute	Disturbance	Supervisor	Proper
18-0002	01/11/18	2339	1 minute	Traffic	Supervisor	Improper
18-0003	03/04/18	2048	2 minutes	Stolen Auto	Supervisor	Proper

Number	Date	Time	Duration	Reason	Termination Source	Findings
18-0004	05/02/18	0025	1 minute	Traffic	Supervisor	Proper
18-0005	07/07/18	0054	2 minutes	Traffic	Supervisor	Improper
18-0006	08/14/18	0236	1 minute	Fugitive	Supervisor	Improper
18-0007	08/17/18	1316	2 minutes	Fugitive	Suspect stopped	Improper
18-0008	08/22/18	1152	1 minute	Fugitive	Crash	Proper
18-0009	09/21/18	0952	2 minutes	Assault	Suspect stopped	Proper
18-0010	10/25/18	0149	2 minutes	DWI	Suspect stopped	Proper
18-0011	11/24/18	2050	1 minute	Traffic	Crash	Proper
18-0012	12/22/18	0150	2 minutes	Investigative	Suspect stopped	Proper
18-0013	12/22/18	2211	3 minutes	Traffic	Suspect stopped	Proper

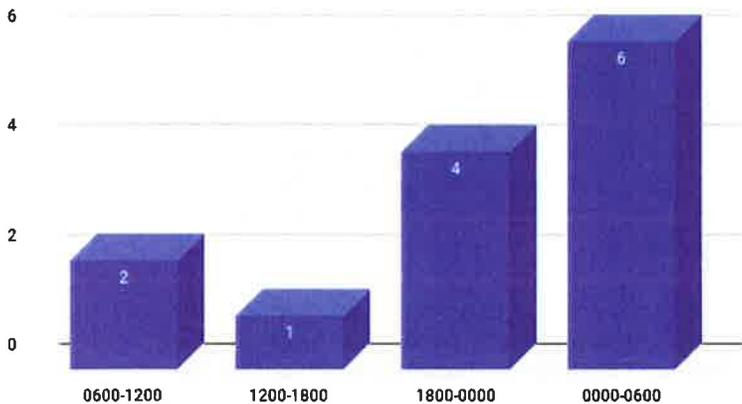
Termination Source



Findings



Time of Day



Policy 314, Vehicle Pursuits, includes the requirement of bi-annual training for all officers on the vehicle pursuit policy (314.9.1). Effective March 20, 2019, a revised Vehicle Pursuit Policy was enacted. Due to this department’s CALEA self-assessment process, Policy 314 was revised to include the requirement of an annual review and analysis of pursuit policy, pursuit reporting, and pursuits which occurred during the calendar year. All sworn personnel were provided the policy, trained on the policy, and

tested on the policy with a required score of 100%. An additional department wide review of the policy and comprehension testing is scheduled for later in 2019 to comply with the bi-annual training requirement of Policy 314.

Analysis:

In 2018, members of the Columbia Police Department engaged in 13 motor vehicle pursuits. The majority of the pursuits occurred in the late night to early morning hours and all lasted three (3) minutes or less in duration. Of the 13 pursuits, six (6) were terminated by a supervisor, five (5) concluded with the suspect stopping, and two (2) resulted in the suspect vehicle crashing. None of the pursuits were terminated by the officer who initiated the pursuit. Pursuits were initiated for both felonies and misdemeanors. One pursuit was initiated for an unknown/investigative reason. A total of nine (9) pursuits ended with arrests, three (3) with no arrests, and one (1) with no arrest, but driver identified.

All pursuits were initiated within the Columbia city limits and remained in the city limits. Three (3) pursuits resulted in property damage to uninvolved vehicles, suspect vehicles, and/or other property. One pursuit was initiated by an unmarked police vehicle, but immediately yielded control upon the presence of a marked patrol vehicle. One (1) resulted in injuries to the occupants of a suspect vehicle. No officers reported injuries as a result of the vehicle pursuits.

Nine (9) of the pursuits were “proper”, four (4) were “improper”. In analyzing the “improper” pursuits, the majority were terminated at the intervention and direction of a supervisor following the policy in place at the time. Only two (2) improper pursuits resulted in an Internal Affairs investigation. A short analysis of the “improper” pursuits follows:

<u>Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Reason Improper</u>	<u>Result</u>
18-0002	01/11/18	Initiated for traffic offense	Counseling
18-0005	07/07/18	Initiated for misdemeanor	Counseling
18-0006	08/14/18	Initiated for non-violent warrant	Counseling
18-0007	08/17/18	Initiated for non-violent offense	Remedial Training

Conclusion:

The analysis generally shows that officers and first-line supervisors are exercising good judgement in vehicular pursuits. While engaged in vehicle pursuits, involved officers demonstrated safe driving techniques and exercised heightened caution around areas with higher public presence. Supervisors were diligent in monitoring pursuits and adhering to portions of policy relevant to supervisory duties. Based on my analysis, I do not see a need to further revise our pursuit policy or pursuit reporting procedures.

/s/CMS2011

